

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00157 081326Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-07 SCA-01 DHA-02  
/038 W

-----081329Z 113914 /41

R 081226Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1233

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0157

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN - DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY  
SUBJECT: U.S. PRESS INTEREST IN SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

1. NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDANT HAS BEEN IN DAMASCUS THIS WEEK DOING STORY ON SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. MET WITH MININFO, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND SEVERAL STUDENTS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO CHECK OUT ALLEGATION THAT SOME 400 WOMEN 20-30 WANT TO LEAVE SYRIA TO FIND HUSBANDS. HE BELIEVES 400 FIGURE IS HIGH. COMMUNITY LEADERS MENTIONED FIGURE OF 100. HE FOUND COMMUNITY STILL WAITING FOR NEW MEASURES TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT THOUGH SOME HAD BEGUN TRAVELING INTERNALLY WITHOUT NOTIFYING AUTHORITIES. MININFO ISKANDAR AHMAD DID NOT SEEM TOO FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS BUT TOLD HIM ISSUE OF GIRLS LEAVING TO FIND HUSBANDS WAS RIDICULOUS SINCE UNDER BAATHI SECULAR IDEOLOGY PEOPLE COULD MARRY WHOM THEY WISH. AHMAD ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD RED "MUSAWI" STAMP WOULD BE REMOVED FROM ID CARDS BUT RELIGION WOULD STILL BE SHOWN IN ORDINARY TYPE FACE IN APPROPRIATE SPACE ON CARDS IN SAME MANNER AS OTHER SYRIAN CITIZENS. AHMAD SAID GOVT STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING BOND REQUIRED FROM  
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PASSPORT APPLICANTS TO FIT FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF APPLICANTS, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT BOND WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED.

2. CORRESPONDENT OF ABC TELEVISION EXPECTED NEXT WEEK TO COVER SAME STORY.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC00157  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. PRESS INTEREST IN SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOCI, SPOP, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009